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PSC 329.01: Politics of Japan

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Political Science 329
Politics of Japan

Fall 2004
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF
LA 349

Text: McCargo, CONTEMPORARY JAPAN (Required)

Hayes, INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE POLITICS (Recommended)

This course is concerned with the organization, structure and operation of the political system of Japan. Apart from exploring the main features of the system, the course addresses those social and cultural factors that give Japanese politics its distinctive character.

Requirements:

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on October 8 and the second on November 12. These exams will each count for 25% of the final grade. A comprehensive final exam will count for 50% of the final grade. This exam is scheduled for December 15, 8:00-10:00. Exams will consist of identification, short answer and/or essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED)

In order to make the experience of this course as pleasant and rewarding as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

Topic Outline:

1. Introduction

Read: McCargo, Ch. 1
(Hayes, Introduction)

2. Historical Background

Read: McCargo, Ch. 2

3. The Occupation

Read: (Hayes, Ch. 2)

4. Government

Read: McCargo, Ch. 5
(Hayes, Ch. 3)

First Exam October 1

5. Political parties

Read: McCargo, Ch. 6

6. Electoral Reform

Read: (Hayes, Ch. 6)

7. Political Participation

Read: (Hayes, Ch. 7)

8. The Social Order

Read: McCargo, Ch. 4

(Hayes, Ch. 8)

9. The Economy

Read: McCargo, Ch. 3

(Hayes, Ch. 9)

Second Exam November 5

10. Civil Society

Read: McCargo, Ch. 7

(Hayes, Ch. 10, 11)

12. Japan and the World

Read: McCargo, Ch. 8

(Hayes, Ch. 12-13)

16. Prospects for the future

Read: McCargo, Ch. 9

(Hayes, Ch. 14)

Final Exam December 15 8:00-10:00

Note: October 11 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.